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33.—The Torrey Botanical Club met Tuesday evening, April 30th. Present, eighteen members, viz., Messrs. Torrey, Wood, Allen, Leggett, Austin, Merriam, Bower, Gross, Hogg, Wilber, McIntyre, Ruger, C. Gerard, Parker, Paine, Hall and LeRoy. Visitors—three.

Mr. Hogg brought specimens of *Forsythia suspensa*, *Corylopsis paniculata* and *spicata*, *Stachyurus praecox*, *Parrya Siberica*, and two species of *Orchidaceæ*.

Mr. Austin brought, and distributed specimens of *Danthonia compressa*. *Danthonia Alleni* was shown by Dr. Allen. Both are described in the Bulletin.

Icones Illustratae Indiae Orientalis, 6 volumes, by R. Wright, received in the College Herb. Library. P. V. LEROY, Sec.

34. *Helonias*.—On the 3rd of May, Messrs. J. H. Redfield and C. F. Parker, Dr. Hassler, two Messrs. Tryon and myself made an excursion from Philadelphia into the edge of the Pines, chiefly in search of *Helonias bullata*, L. We were quite successful, finding the plant in all stages of the flowering process, from the imperfect bud to the turning green of the perianth. The plant is a shy-blooming thing, only a few out of many sending up a scape, and those few being very far between, except where two or three scapes grow from the same clump. The favorite situation for flowering seemed to be just on the edge of a swift stream, or in rich moist earth supported by some root or log that either crossed the stream or lay between two holes filled with water. One plant I found in flower close beside and touching *Orontium aquaticum*, also in bloom and growing in the water. The easiest way to find the flowers was to make one's way in the middle of the stream by means of logs in the water, or clinging to the branches above, now and then getting deep in the water or mud; and all the while struggling through a fearful tangle of underbrush, shrubbery and prickly stuff, which quite hid the sun and limited the view to a rod or two. The denser the thicket, the more freely the plant bloomed; but, still, hunting for the flowers reminded me of the hunt for *Aplectrum hyemale* in a locality where that plant is abundant. Nor was the difficulty at all ended with the finding of the plant, for the scapes are hollow, very thin and brittle, and filled with water; and, after the roots were apparently quite loosened from the earth, the least shock or jerk in lifting the plant up, would cause the scape to snap off, and spoil the beauty of the specimen. Then, after getting up the plant, it was very difficult to get out of the thicket without spoiling the flowers or breaking the scape to pieces against the brush, or by the shock of a jump or fall. Altogether, we came to the conclusion that *Helonias bullata* is a very hard plant to collect in flower. Besides the locality of last year, we found another locality new to us, but probably the same that Dr. Leidy discovered some years ago. Unfortunately, however, the plant must perish there before another season, as the thicket is just cut off and the clearing of the ground commenced. This year, though, the plants grew and flowered finely, and were much farther advanced than those first mentioned. Here, also, we

found a clump with *six* scapes, each scape two feet eight inches high, and the flower heads a trifle over two inches long. This clump I dug up, and by careful supporting and wrapping carried safely, without any breaking, to Philadelphia, where we hope it will thrive. Much beauty is added to the purplish rose flowers by the bright, blue color of the exerted stamens. The leaves, at time of flowering, are not more than one fifth the size they afterwards attain; and the perianth seems regularly to turn to a brownish-red before becoming green.

Among other things in flower we found *Sassafras*, *Spice-bush*, *Americanchier*, *Euphorbia Ipecacuanhae*, several *Vaccinia*, *Gaylussacia resinosa*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Viola pedata*, *V. lanceolata*, *V. sagittata*, *V. cucullata*, *Sisymbrium Thaliana*, *Draba vera*—the largest specimens I ever saw, scapes often seven and eight inches long. A very little *Pyxidanthera* still remained in flower; *Leiophyllum* was not yet out. A large area of *Sarracenia* and of *Nymphaea* (the small form) seemed to have suffered unusual blight, and nearly all the plants were dead where all last year were strong and vigorous.

We found a large bunch of *Phoradendron flavescens* growing on a branch of a staminate tree of *Acer rubrum*. The tree was about two feet in diameter at base—I could not clasp around it with both arms; and the bunch of mistletoe was about 40 feet high up, on a limb of about the thickness of a man's arm, and was greater in the diameter than the trunk of the tree at the base. We had no time or means to collect the specimen.

I also practically demonstrated the utility of "Wood's press" for such excursions. I put my specimens as collected at once into a press of that kind, and changed the papers immediately on arriving at Philadelphia, but had no chance to change again till the 10th inst., when I found the papers much drier than I expected, and the specimens doing well.

I. H. H.

Pine street, New York, May 14th, 1872.

35. Willows.—I send you a few observations on the Willows of this locality, without any hope of adding to what is known by specialists. The location is on the Connecticut river, about 125 miles from its mouth, latitude $42^{\circ} 50' N$. The river, within a distance of a few miles, receives several lesser streams flowing down from among the hills. The rocks are slate and granite.

I find here of native willows:—1. *Salix rostrata*, Rich, (*livida*, Wahl.) This is a tree-like shrub, growing in pastures and on the borders of woods, not apparently affecting water or wet places, nor have I observed it to be variable.

2. *Salix humilis*, Marshall. This is a shrub, and our earliest species. It does not seek water or seclusion, but takes to roadsides, fences, and neglected places. It is extremely variable in general appearance.

3. *Salix sericea*, Marshall. A shrub with silky ovaries and densely silky under-surfaces to the leaves; drying black. Found on low sandy banks of brooks.